

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 OIC-04 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

PRS-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSR-01 /165 W

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O P 271129Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9568

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6730

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICAO ETRN PFOR IS

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS ON ISRAELI STRATEGY AT ICAO

REF: TEL AVIV 6717

1. ACCORDING TO GOI PRESS BULLETIN, A MAJOR TOPIC AT AUG 26 WEEKLY CABINET SESSION WAS FORTHCOMING ICAO AIR SECURITY CONFERENCE. ALL MAJOR ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS CARRY ARTICLES AUG 27 OUTLING FONMIN EBAN'S PRESENTATION ON THIS SUBJECT TO CABINET.

2. PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT ISRAEL'S REPRESENTATIVE AT ICAO CONFERENCE OPENING AUG 28 IN ROME WOULD PRESS FOR EFFECTIVE AND BINDING AMENDMENTS TO CHICAGO CONVENTION AGAINST (A) HIJACKING AND (B) INTERFERENCE WITH CIVIL AVIATION, AND WOULD ALSO DEMAND MEASURES AGAINST COUNTRIES GIVING ANY FORM OF AID OR PROTECTION TO HIJACKERS. ACCORDING TO PRESS, EBAN SAID ISRAELI DELEGATION WOULD SEEK PROVISION IN CHICAGO CONVENTION FOR A GENERAL ANTIHIJACKING SECURITY CODE BINDING ON ALL ICAO MEMBERS WHICH WOULD INCLUDE STRICT SECURITY
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PROCEDURES AT AIRPORTS AS WELL AS IN THE AIR.

3. REGARDING LEBANESE COMPLAINT ON AUG 10 ISRAELI DIVERSION OF MEA AIRLINER, PRESS STATES THAT EBAN SAID ISRAELI DELEGATION TO CONFERENCE WOULD STRONGLY PROTEST DOUBLE STANDARD EMPLOYED IN HANDLING OF INCIDENT THUS FAR BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UNSC AND ICAO COUNCIL IN MONTREAL. ISRAEL WOULD GIVE LONG AND DETAILED LIST OF ACTS OF INTERFERENCE WITH CIVIL AVIATION BY ARAB STATES AND BY FRANCE WHICH HAD NOT LED TO CENSURE OR ACTION IN ANY INTERNATIONAL BODY.

4. AL HAMISHMAR ARTICLE ON THIS SUBJECT STATES THAT ISRAEL WILL EMPHASIZE IN ROME THAT AUG 10 INCIDENT WAS ONE-TIME MILITARY OPERATION WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF WAR AGAINST TERROR AND THAT ISRAEL HAS NOT RETREATED FROM ITS STAND ON NON-INTERFERENCE WITH CIVIL AVIATION. HARIF OF MAARIV REPORTED THAT SEVERAL MINISTERS WERE OF OPINION THAT EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR AUG 10 INCIDENT BY PROMINENT ISRAELI POLITICAL FIGURES WOULD NOT MAKE ISRAEL'S TASK AT ROME ANY EASIER.

5. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ARE CITED BY PRESS AS SAYING CONTACTS WITH GOVERNMENTS FRIENDLY TO ISRAEL HAD SHOWN THEY WOULD OBJECT TO IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL AS RESULT OF AUG 10 INCIDENT. MFA OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT ICAO DECISIONS ARE ADOPTED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY AND THIS COULD WORK TO ISRAEL'S DISADVANTAGE.

6. COMMENT: ONE-TIME MEASURE THEME IN AL HAMISHMAR IS NOT CARRIED IN ANY OTHER PRESS REPORTS AND MAY REFLECT ONLY AL HAMISHMAR'S GENERAL DOVISH ATTITUDES, RATHER THAN FOREIGN MINISTRY BRIEFING.. ABOVE REPRESENTS ABOUT ALL EBAN INDICATED GOI WOULD SAY (REFTEL), AND WE DOUBT MORE IS TO BE EXPECTED IN ISRAELI PRESS. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT PRESENTATION OF ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE IN ROME WILL GO FARTHER IN LINE WITH US DESIRES. KEATING

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